This Issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Consists of 2 Pages

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Let the mind and tongue and press be free. A suppression of error is no aid to the cause of truth.—William Lloyd Garrison.

WHOLE NO. 1338 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 49

Introduction of Resolutions in A. F. of L. Conventions Is Regulated by New Rules

Proposals Must Be Received by Secretary-Treasurer Thirty Days Before Convention Opens—Executive Council Will Pass on Resolutions from Directly Affiliated Local and Federal Labor Unions—Proposals from State Labor Federations and City Central Unions Required to Carry Approval of Those Organizations.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New rules regarding the introduction of resolutions, petitions, memorials and appeals to be considered by conventions of the American Federation of Labor were adopted by the recent Tampa convention of the Federation.

The subject came before the convention in a report from the Executive Council pursuant to instructions of the 1935 convention.

The convention Committee on Laws unanimously recommended the adoption of the Council's report.

Hitherto delegates have been permitted to introduce resolutions up to midnight of the second day of the convention. According to the new rules all resolutions are required to be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L. 30 days before the opening of the convention with certain exceptions regarding resolutions adopted by conventions of affiliated organizations held during this 30-day period.

Resolutions presented after the expiration of the 30 days period must be referred to the Executive Council, which will refer them to the convention with the understanding that their acceptance must receive unanimous consent.

With regard to proposals adopted by local and Federal labor unions directly affiliated with the A. F. of L., the rules require that they shall be referred to the Executive Council for consideration and disposition, with the provision that the Council shall advise the convention of its action.

Proposals presented by state federations of labor must have received the approval of the previous convention of the state federation.

Proposals coming from city central labor unions must have first received the approval of such unions.

The most of the debate on the report was concerned with the restriction placed on federal labor unions. Delegates opposed to the report criticised the provision that denies the right of federal labor unions to present resolutions to be considered by the convention without the approval of the Executive Council.

Tobin Favors Report

Delegate Tobin of the Teamsters, ninth vice president of the A. F. of L. and chairman of the Committee on Laws, minimized the importance of the objections. He said the Council was impressed with the excessive number of resolutions presented to the 1935 convention, which resulted in the Resolutions Committee of that convention recommending that the Council devise methods to relieve the committee work.

Referring to the Tampa convention, Delegate Tobin said it had received 272 resolutions, adding: "Out of 110 or 112 international unions less than 40 resolutions came from all of that group. Over 200 resolutions were introduced by central bodies and federal labor unions. It is utterly impossible to give this proper attention to the subject matter contained in these resolutions under the present system."

National Unions Have Similar Rule

Delegate Tobin also emphasized the point that the new rule applies to federal labor unions the same principle which the national and international unions apply to their locals.

"There are 900 chartered federal labor unions at the present time in the Federation," he said. "The American Federation of Labor is the parent

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Boycott Power of Central Labor Unions Restricted by A. F. of L.

Tampa Convention Decrees National and Local Unions Having Agreements With Employers Whom It Is Proposed Shall Be Placed On Unfair List Must First Be Given Opportunity to Adjust the Dispute—If an Understanding Is Not Reached, Final Authority On the Boycott Proposal Is Vested in the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor amended the constitution of the Federation by restricting the power of central labor bodies to boycott employers.

The matter was brought before the convention by delegates representing the Building Trades and Metal Trades Departments of the A. F. of L. in a resolution which charged that the action of central labor councils and other delegate bodies in declaring unfair which have agreements with national and international unions "is in direct violation to the basic principles of collective bargaining and the necessary observance of agreements entered into by international unions."

The delegates of the two departments asked that the A. F. of L. constitution be amended so as to provide that no central labor body "shall have authority to declare any firm or firms having national or local agreements with national or international unions unfair in violation of the provisions of such agreements," with the provision that central labor bodies "declaring an employer unfair in violation of the provisions of such agreements shall be subject to the discipline of the American Federation of Labor."

The Committee on Laws reported that while it was in accord with the purpose of the resolution it believed it was too drastic as presented, "inasmuch as if adopted in the form proposed it would nullify to a great extent much of the effective activities and present recognized functions of local central bodies."

Text of Amendment

In place of the resolution presented by the Building Trades and Metal Trades delegates the committee recommended that Section 7 of Article XI of the American Federation of Labor constitution be amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. No central labor union or other central body of delegates shall have power or authority to reinstate a

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Federal Trade Commission Decrees End Of Spurious "A. F. of L. Committee"

Orders New York Left Wing Group to Cease Using Any Name Suggesting That They Have a Connection With the American Federation of Labor.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The order of the Federal Trade Commission requiring the so-called "A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief" to discontinue using that name "or any other name suggesting that they have a connection with the American Federation of Labor" definitely brings to an end the efforts, extending over a number of years, of this notorious left wing group to palm themselves off as a bona fide A. F. of L. organization.

The Federal Trade Commission began its inquiry into the activities of this group more than a year ago in an order requiring them to appear before the Commission on a charge of violating the Federal statute prohibiting deceptive practices as "unfair competition" and show cause why they should not be required to cease this allegedly fraudulent procedure.

False Impression Created

By the use of the initials "A. F. of L." in its name the committee has undertaken to create the impression that it is an American Federation of Labor group.

By the use of the initials "A. F. of L." and the word "Federationist" in the name of its publication "The A. F. of L. Rank and File Federationist," the Committee has likewise endeavored to palm off its magazine as an American Federation of Labor publication.

The fact is that neither the Committee nor its publication has ever had any connection whatsoever with the American Federation of Labor.

On November 24, 1936, after a thorough investigation of the case the Federal Trade Commission issued the following statement:

Commission's Order

The Federal Trade Commission has ordered an association and its members, with headquarters at 1 Union Square, New York City, to discontinue use of the name "A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief," or any other name suggesting that they have a connection with the American Federation of Labor.

The order also prohibits the respondent association and its members from using the name "A. F. of L. Rank and

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Green Is Re-Elected A. F. of L. President

(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

Urges Patience and Tolerance in Solving Workers' Problems—Hopes for a Thoroughly United Labor Movement.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

William Green was unanimously re-elected president of the American Federation of Labor by the delegates to the Tampa convention.

He was placed in nomination by George M. Harrison of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, who said:

"I rise to nominate a leader for the next term and as the chief executive of the American Federation of Labor. In considering our leader I think perhaps it might be well to suggest that American labor as represented by the American Federation of Labor is upon the threshold of new opportunities to be of service to the toiling masses of our country and to contribute that wholesome influence to the peoples of the world who cherish the same ideals and have the same aspirations that we in America love so well.

"In my judgment, the future holds much for the people of our country. Our opportunities to realize our ambitions will, to a large extent, be determined by the leadership which we have, through this American Federation of Labor, give to our people.

Government Is Sympathetic

"We now have, I think, a governmental administration which is more sympathetic to our ideals than that which many of us has ever heretofore known; and upon the wisdom displayed by us and upon the policies which we determine and upon our actions will depend whether or not we realize that opportunity and keep the faith with those who depend upon the American labor movement.

"And so in presenting a candidate for the high and honorable office of President of the American Federation of Labor, it is well that we select one who possesses the qualifications of confidence, integrity, and the personality that will lead us to those better

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(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

A. F. of L. COUNCIL ELECTED BY CONVENTION

Fraternal Delegates Named—1937 Convention Will Be Held in Denver.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The fifty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Tampa, Florida, elected the following members of the Executive Council by unanimous vote: President, William Green (miner); first vice president, Frank Duffy (carpenter); second vice president, T. A. Rickert (garment worker); third vice president, Matthew Woll (photo-engraver); fourth vice president, John Coefield (plumber); fifth vice president, Arthur O. Wharton (machinist); sixth vice president, Joseph N. Weber (musician); seventh vice president, G. M. Bugniazet (electrical worker); eighth vice president, George M. Harrison (railway clerk); ninth vice president, Daniel J. Tobin (teamster); tenth vice president, Harry C. Bates (bricklayer); eleventh vice president, Edward J. Gainor (letter carrier); twelfth vice president, W. D. Mahon (street and electric railway employe); thirteenth vice president, Felix H. Knight (railway carman); fourteenth vice president, George E. Browne (theatrical stage employe); fifteenth vice president, Edward Flore (hotel and restaurant employe); secretary-treasurer, Frank Morrison (printer).

William C. Birthright, international secretary of Barbers' International Union, and James J. Ryan, first vice president of the Sheet Metal Workers, were selected fraternal delegates to the British Trade Union Congress.

Delegate R. A. Henning of the International Association of Machinists was elected fraternal delegate to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

Denver was chosen as the 1937 convention city.

Fraternal Delegates from England and Canada Presented with Gifts by A. F. of L. Convention

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The good will of the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor for their fraternal associates in England and Canada was emphasized at the Tampa convention of the A. F. of L. when the two fraternal delegates and their wives from the British Trade Union Congress, and the fraternal delegate and his wife from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress were each presented with appropriate tokens of esteem and friendship.

The Good Will Committee asked President Green to make the formal presentations. Each recipient responded with a brief address or a touching expression of appreciation.

Fraternal Delegate Kean from the British Trade Union Congress was presented with a beautiful watch, chain and knife. Delegate Kean's wife, who was unfortunately obliged to remain in England, was sent a platinum watch set with diamonds as a token of affection and regard.

Fraternal Delegate Gibson, also of the B. T. U. C., was likewise presented with a beautiful watch, chain and knife, and Mrs. Gibson received a platinum watch, set with diamonds.

Fraternal Delegate Brunet of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress was given a watch, chain and knife, similar to those presented to the others. Mrs. Brunet received a ladies' watch, set with diamonds, also similar to those presented to others.

In the course of his response, Mr. Brunet extended to the A. F. of L. on behalf of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council an invitation to hold the 1937 convention in that city.

Chairman Ademski of the Good Will Committee took occasion to inform all and sundry that the good will gifts were all union made, being the beautiful handiwork of members of the Jewelry Workers' Union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The entire ceremony was marked by evidences of emotion that deeply affected all present.

Senator O'Mahoney Will Give Radio Address On Federal Licensing Bill

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, author of the Federal Licensing Bill, will deliver a radio address on that measure over the stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System on Wednesday, December 9, at 10:30 P. M. (Eastern Standard Time).

The bill, which is supported by the American Federation of Labor, would require concerns engaged in interstate business to secure from the Federal Government licenses containing provisions making mandatory higher standards of living for working men and women and guaranteeing the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively without interference from employers.

The Official and Weekly Labor Press and labor unions throughout the United States are urged to give wide publicity to the notice of Senator O'Mahoney's address and ask Columbia stations to broadcast his explanation of the fundamental principles of this licensing bill.

MORRISON RE-ELECTED SECRETARY-TREASURER

Unanimously Chosen by American Federation of Labor Convention to Serve Forty-first Consecutive Term.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Frank Morrison was unanimously re-elected secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor at the Tampa convention.

Mr. Morrison was first elected secretary of the A. F. of L. in 1896 and was re-elected to that office every year until 1935, when the Atlantic City convention, following the merger of the offices of secretary and treasurer, unanimously chose him for the newly created office of secretary-treasurer.

The delegates to the Tampa convention returned him to office for the forty-first consecutive term.

Delegate Mariel, of the International Typographical Union, nominated Mr. Morrison with the following tribute to his service in the labor movement:

"I desire to place in nomination a gentleman who has served this organization as secretary so long that the minds of men runneth not to the contrary.

"During all the strife and storm he stands as the Rock of Gibraltar, both as to the ground, calm and steadfast. He has given service as secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor.

"It is my pleasure and privilege to present you the name of Frank Morrison, of the International Typographical Union, for re-election."

Delegate McCurdy, of the Maryland State Federation of Labor, seconded the nomination of Secretary Morrison.

Delegate Mahon, twelfth vice president of the A. F. of L., moved that the nominations be closed and that Delegate Manion, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Telegraphers, who was chairman of the convention during the election of officers, "be instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of the convention for Frank Morrison for secretary-treasurer for the ensuing term."

In complying with the instructions," Chairman Manion said, "I hereby cast the unanimous vote of this convention for Frank Morrison for secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor for the ensuing term, and I declare him unanimously elected. And it is the best act I have done since I have been in this convention."

Battle Creek Barbers Form Union; Ten Shops Enrolled

Battle Creek, Mich. (AFLNS).—Battle Creek barbers have finally effected a commendable organization. At the last report, 33 members were on the honor roll of the union and 10 Battle Creek barber shops now proudly display the union shop card of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Free Press Upheld By AFL Convention

(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

Refuses to Concur in Committee Report Referring to Executive Council Resolutions Urging Boycott of Heard Publications Because of Their Alleged Unfair Attitude Toward Labor.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Although six different resolutions were submitted to the Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor calling for condemnation of William Randolph Hearst and a boycott of his publications, they were shelved after extensive discussion on a report by the Resolutions Committee, which had recommended that the resolutions be referred to the Executive Council.

A motion to amend the committee's report by substituting non-concurrence instead of reference to the Executive Council, offered by Delegate Tobin and duly seconded, was adopted by the convention.

Reasons offered in the resolutions for the proposed action were the editorial and news policy of the Hearst publications and Mr. Hearst's alleged anti-labor policy.

A dramatic incident occurred during consideration of the matter, when Delegate Eddy of the American Newspaper Guild, announced the settlement of the strike of news room employes on the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, one of the Hearst newspapers.

A. F. of L. Policy Cited

The Resolutions Committee, in the formal report, placed special emphasis upon the fact that "the American Federation of Labor, from the beginning, has been an active champion of freedom of the press, the right of a newspaper to publish its views without censorship." It was also asserted that "free institutions must vanish the moment that freedom of the press is restricted or denied." A significant

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(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

A. F. of L. Opposes 1-Man Street Cars

Claims Plan Applied in Washington Reduces Employment and Is Against the Public Interest.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia was severely criticised and vigorous opposition to the further extension of one-man street cars in the District was contained in a resolution unanimously adopted by the fifty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, which recently met in Tampa, Fla. The resolution also condemns one-man cars in general.

Opposed by Washington Unions

Presented in behalf of the Washington Central Labor Union, the preambles state in much detail the efforts of that body in cooperation with the People's Counsel and the Federation of Citizens' Associations, to prevail upon the Commission, through the presentation of briefs and oral testimony setting forth sound and tested reasons, to rule against further extension of one-man cars by the Capital Transit Company, notwithstanding which the Public Utilities Commission approved the corresponding application

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PREVAILING WAGE URGED FOR N. Y. CITY SUBWAY FINANCED BY PWA FUNDS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York City's independent subway system, being completed as Public Works Project No. 2741, under a 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant, totaling $55,000,000, from the Public Works Administration, has been paying technical men on the job far less than the prevailing wages required by law, according to a resolution that came before the Tampa convention of the A. F. of L. and was unanimously adopted.

It is alleged that engineering employes on this project have suffered reduction of wages in amounts of from $5 to 40 per cent. The minimum equivalent rate for technical engineers, architects and draftsmen is $1.20 an hour. The PWA law, adopted by Congress June 16, 1933, and amended in 1935, stipulates that all wages on PWA projects must be "the prevailing wages" of that specific community.

The resolution adopted by the convention recites these facts and calls for enforcement of the prevailing wage section, along with other provisions of the law.

Copies of the resolution will be sent promptly to President Roosevelt, Administrator Ickes, Senators Wagner and Copeland, Mayor La Guardia and Comptroller Taylor of New York with the request that these officials cooperate in seeing that engineering employes on the big subway project receive the prevailing rate of wages in accordance with the mandate of Congress.

Tampa Convention Acted on Extent Of A. F. of L. Council's Authority Over All Affiliated Organizations

Confirmed Power to Penalize or Suspend National and International Unions and State Federations of Labor For Violation of A. F. of L. Constitution, Laws and Certificate of Affiliation Obligations, or Orders of the Council—President's Power to Discipline Central Labor Unions and Federal and Local Labor Unions Was Also Confirmed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A few months ago the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in conformity with authority conferred upon it by Section 8, Article IX, of the constitution of the A. F. of L., adopted a rule for the guidance of the Council in dealing with emergencies and with administrative problems which may arise during the interim between conventions. The constitution requires that such action shall be reported to the next convention.

The Resolutions Committee of the Tampa convention in its report on the Committee for Industrial Organization recommended that the rule adopted by the Executive Council be adopted by the convention. The report of the Resolutions Committee, including the rule, was adopted by a vote of 21,679 to 2,043.

Following is the text of the rule which the convention adopted:

National and International Unions

1. If any national or international union, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, violates any provision of the constitution or laws of the American Federation of Labor, or any order of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor issued under and in pursuance of the constitution or laws of the American Federation of Labor, involving a breach of the contractual obligations assumed by said union in its charter from the American Federation of Labor, and if notice or charge of said breach of obligation or of violation of any of the provisions of the constitution or laws of the American Federation of Labor or of orders of the Executive Council issued thereunder and in pursuance thereof is filed with the Executive Council by any of its affiliated national or international unions, or by the Executive Council of its own motion, the national or international union so complained of or charged with wrong doing shall be notified by the president or the secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor of such charges or notice of complaint, if in the judgment of the Executive Council such charges or complaints warrant further consideration and action, with direction to appear at a given date before the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, or a committee of its members appointed by the president of the American Federation of Labor for that purpose, and then and there to submit such evidence it desires in refutation of said charges or com-

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(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

30-Hour Week Made Labor's Paramount Objective by A. F. of L. Convention

Shorter Work Day Committee Holds It Is Necessary to Provide Jobs for the Unemployed—Executive Council Instructed to Have Bill Introduced in Congress.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The five-day week and the six-hour work day "without any reduction in the present weekly pay" was made the paramount objective of the Tampa convention of the American Federation of Labor, when it unanimously adopted the report of the Committee on Shorter Work Day.

The report of the committee, whose chairman was Delegate Gainor of the Letter Carriers, said:

Relief for Jobless

"From its very origin the American Federation of Labor has fought with unremitting vigor for a shorter work week not only as a matter of equity and justice for all workers but also as essential to promote the public welfare. For almost 50 years labor fought this good fight alone. This grave problem now is and should be the vital concern of every citizen. We know now through bitter experience that there is no escape from the staggering cost that unemployment levies on society. All must pay. Those denied employment opportunities must be supported by those at work. There is no other way."

Cost of Idle Man-Power

In support of its argument for shorter work hours the committee cited the following excerpt from a recent issue of the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor:

"Few people realize the immense costs of idle man-power. A careful estimate shows: We have lost, during

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POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT LABOR POLICY APPROVED

A. F. of L. Convention Asserts Postal Officials Recognize Right of Employes to Organize and Be Heard Through Their Elected Representatives.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Policy-forming officials of the U. S. Postal Service were extended the cordial thanks and appreciation of organized labor, in a resolution unanimously approved by the fifty-sixth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Tampa, for the fair labor policies of this great division of the government.

These officials, the resolution declares, "have repeatedly declared themselves as recognizing the right of organization by the employes and of spokesmanship through their duly elected representatives." It is further declared that "this policy is one inaugurated by the present administration of the Post Office Department and is an innovation and marked change from previous personnel relations."

After expressing high praise and appreciation, the resolution asks that "these officials take energetic steps to impress upon their subordinates in the field the duty and responsibility of meeting and according recognition of the unions and the sincere practice of collective bargaining with respect to administrative matters."

(From November 30 issue of A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Supplement.)

A. F. of L. Rejects Plan for Labor Party

Tampa Convention Holds Non-Partisan Political Policy Is Best for Interests of the Workers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The American Federation of Labor decided at its 1936 convention in Tampa to continue its long-established policy of non-partisanship in the matter of politics.

This action resulted after consideration of 10 different resolutions submitted to the convention, all relating to the organizing of a Labor party or a Farmer-Labor party, with the authority and support of the American Federation of Labor.

Aside from citations contained in the various resolutions submitted, a number of delegates offered arguments from the floor in favor of A. F. of L. sponsorship of an independent political party.

Arguments for Labor Party

Delegate Rose of United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers contended

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Employes of Labor Unions Held Eligible For Old-Age Social Security Benefits

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—In response to queries from labor union officials the Social Security Board announced that employes of labor unions, including the paid officers, organizers, business agents, clerks, stenographers and all other employes of such organizations, are eligible to qualify under the old-age benefit provisions of the Social Security Act, and such organizations as well as their employes are subject to the same tax as other employers and employes. These are informal rulings of the Social Security Board and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Union officials, the Board stated, should fill in employers' blanks and their employes should fill in applications for social security account numbers. The necessary blanks if not already received may be obtained from the local post offices and should be returned in accordance with the instructions printed thereon. Should question arise in regard to the status of any particular labor organization or any employe, the Board's statement pointed out, a decision will be made in each individual case.